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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11 (Previously canceled).

Claim 12 (Currently amended). An anchoring element comprising:

a screw;

a receiving portion for connecting the screw to a rod;

wherein the screw comprises a threaded section and a head having an exterior surface with a spherical segment-shaped section;

wherein the receiving portion comprises a first end, a second end opposite the first end, a longitudinal axis passing through the two ends, a bore coaxial with the longitudinal axis, a first region adjoining the first end with an essentially U-shaped cross-section with two free arms for receiving the rod (19) to be inserted, the two free arms comprising a thread, a second region adjoining the second end for receiving the spherical segment-shaped section of said head; and

an element which exerts pressure on the rod or on the head;

wherein the thread section and the spherical segment-shaped section of the head of the screw are separate parts.

Claim 13 (Previously submitted). The anchoring element according to claim 12, wherein the threaded section comprises a shank for engaging the head.

Claim 14 (Previously submitted). The anchoring element according to claim 13, wherein the head comprises a spring-like yielding edge facing toward the threaded section of the screw.

Claim 15 (Previously submitted). The anchoring element according to claim 14, wherein the spring-like yielding edge comprises one or more apertures or recesses

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which are directed parallel to the axis and distributed circumferentially around the head.

Claim 16 (Previously submitted). The anchoring element according to claim 12, wherein the head comprises a side wall and a bore hole coaxial with the axis.

Claim 17 (Previously submitted). The anchoring element according to claim 16, wherein the head contains an aperture extending over an entire length of the side wall in a direction parallel to the axis.

Claim 18 (Previously submitted). The anchoring element according to claim 16, wherein the bore is cylindrical.

Claim 19 (Previously submitted). The anchoring element according to claim 13, wherein the shank comprises the rough surface.

Claim 20 (Previously submitted). The anchoring element according to claim 13, wherein the shank has a polygonal cross sectional shape in a section perpendicular to the axis.

Claim 21 (Currently amended). ~~The anchoring element according to claim 16,~~ An anchoring element comprising:

_____ a screw;

_____ a receiving portion for connecting the screw to a rod;

_____ wherein the screw comprises a threaded section and a head having a spherical segment-shaped section;

_____ wherein the receiving portion comprises a first end, a second end opposite the first end, a longitudinal axis passing through the two ends, a bore coaxial with the longitudinal axis, a first region adjoining the first end with an essentially U-shaped cross-section with two free arms for receiving the rod (19) to be inserted, the two free arms comprising a thread, a second region adjoining the second end for receiving the

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spherical segment-shaped section of said head; and
an element which exerts pressure on the rod or on the head;
wherein the thread section and the head of the screw are separate parts;
wherein the head comprises a side wall and a bore hole coaxial with the axis;
wherein the bore hole has an internal thread and the shank has an external thread for mating therewith.

Claim 22 (Previously submitted). The anchoring element according to claim 16, wherein the bore hole is corrugated internally in the circumferential direction and the shank has a corresponding corrugation on its outer side for mating therewith.

Please add the following new claims.

Claim 23 (Newly added). An anchoring element comprising:

- a screw;
- a receiving portion for connecting the screw to a rod;
- wherein the screw comprises a threaded section and a head having an exterior surface with a spherical segment-shaped section;
- wherein the receiving portion comprises a first end, a second end opposite the first end, a longitudinal axis passing through the two ends, a bore coaxial with the longitudinal axis, a first region adjoining the first end with an essentially U-shaped cross-section with two free arms for receiving the rod to be inserted, the two free arms comprising a thread, a second region adjoining the second end for receiving the spherical segment-shaped section of said head; and
- a pressure element which exerts pressure on the rod or on the head;
- wherein the thread section and the head of the screw are separate parts,

thereby permitting adjustment of the length of the screw after placement of the screw in bone tissue.

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Claim 24 (Newly added). An anchoring element comprising:

a screw;

a receiving portion for connecting the screw to a rod;

wherein the screw comprises a threaded section and a head having an exterior surface with a spherical segment-shaped section;

wherein the receiving portion comprises a first end, a second end opposite the first end, a longitudinal axis passing through the two ends, a bore coaxial with the longitudinal axis, a first region adjoining the first end with an essentially U-shaped cross-section with two free arms for receiving the rod to be inserted, the two free arms comprising a thread, a second region adjoining the second end for receiving the spherical segment-shaped section of said head; and

a pressure element which exerts pressure on the rod or on the head;

wherein the thread section and the head of the screw are separate parts;

wherein the threaded section comprises a shank for engaging the head;

wherein pressure exerted by the pressure element fixes the head to the shank, preventing movement and locking a rotational position.